

# South Dakota National Guard

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September 24, 2014

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Governor signs proclamation supporting SD Guard, Reserve employers**

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard demonstrated his support of employers who employ National Guard and Reserve members by signing a proclamation announcing Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week in South Dakota Sept. 21-27. The proclamation coincides with President Barack Obama's national proclamation announcing ESGR Week.

The proclamation is to recognize that employers provide critical support to members of the National Guard and Reserve; allowing citizen warriors to serve whenever the nation calls, often foregoing financial gain and making sacrifices in the process.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency that works to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

"Having Governor Daugaard proclaim ESGR week in South Dakota means that we have the strong support from our governor for the U.S. military, especially our National Guard, Army Reserve and Navy Reserve men and women in South Dakota," said Ron Mielke, South Dakota ESGR state chair. "It also helps the citizens of this state understand the important role that ESGR has in building and maintaining the best relationship possible between our Reserve component members and their employers."

National Guard and Reserve forces comprise nearly half of the nation's military strength, and stand ready to answer the call to serve, whether serving alongside active duty counterparts all across the globe or responding to humanitarian crises at home and abroad.

Mielke says the proclamation also pays special tribute to the commitment of dedicated and supportive employers who continue to make service in the Reserve components possible.

"We are always looking for ways to increase the awareness of our ESGR committee in South Dakota to both our great employers but also the public in general," he said. "Our employers across the state need to know that ESGR is there for them as a resource to use relative to their relationship with Guard and Reserve employees in their organization."

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